

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for acknowledging that Claims 9, 26, and 27 are allowed, and that Claims 6, 7, 15, 19, and 23 are merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In lieu of rewriting Claim 6 in independent form, Applicant has amended Claim 1 to include many of the features of Claim 6, including the detector indicated in the Office Action as not being taught by the prior art. Applicant has also amended Claims 14, 18, and 22 to include the features of allowable Claims 15, 19, and 23, respectively, in lieu of writing those allowable claims in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent Claims 1, 14, 18, and 22 are allowable over the applied patent. In addition, while Applicant has made minor amendments to allowed Claims 9, 26, and 27, Applicant submits that those claims remain allowable.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant believes that all of the independent claims are allowable over the applied patent, and requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

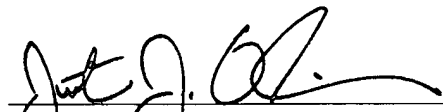
The remaining claims in the present application are dependent claims which depend from the independent claims discussed above, and thus are patentable over the applied patent for the reasons noted above with respect to those independent claims.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. At the very least, Applicant believes that the Amendment reduces the number of issues for appeal. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicant earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Amendment under 37 C.F.R.  
§ 1.116.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C.  
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to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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**VERSIONS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW  
THE CHANGES MADE TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus, comprising:
  - a top plate for supporting a subject;
  - an image receiver for receiving a radiographic image of the subject;
  - a first moving mechanism for varying a position relative to said top plate and/or posture of said image receiver;
  - a second moving mechanism for vertically moving said top plate and said image receiver; [and]
    - a detector for detecting the position and/or posture of said image receiver;
  - and
    - a limiting [means for] unit adapted for limiting action of said second moving mechanism [in accordance with the position of said image receiver relative to said top plate and/or posture of said image receiver] based on a detection result of said detector.
2. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first moving mechanism comprises a guide mechanism [for allowing said image receiver to change in position in a horizontal direction relative to said top plate and/or in posture] for guiding movement of said image receiver.

3. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first moving mechanism [comprises] varies a position of said image receiver [a guide mechanism for guiding movement of said image receiver in a horizontal direction,] between a first position under said top plate and a second position at a side of said top plate.

4. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the limiting unit limits the action of said second moving mechanism [is limited] in a case that said image receiver is at the second position [in which said image receiver is not at said first position].

5. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said limiting unit limits [in a case in which said image receiver is at a second position,] the action of said second moving mechanism in a case that [is limited when] said image receiver is at the second position and in a horizontal posture [in a horizontal posture and the action of said second moving mechanism is not limited when said image receiver is in a vertical posture].

7. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus according to claim [1] 3, [further comprising a detector for detecting, while said image receiver is in a horizontal posture at a

side of said top plate, an obstacle present under said image receiver;] wherein said limiting unit limits a descending action of said second moving mechanism in a case that said image receiver is at the second position and in a horizontal posture [is limited based on a detection result of said detector].

9. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus[, ] comprising:

a top plate for supporting a subject;

an image receiver for receiving a radiographic image of the subject;

a first moving mechanism for varying a position relative to said top plate and/or posture of said image receiver;

a second moving mechanism for vertically moving said top plate and said image receiver; [and]

a detector for detecting[, while said image receiver is in a horizontal posture at a side of said top plate,] an obstacle present under said image receiver[,]; and

[wherein] a limiting unit for limiting descending action of said second moving mechanism [is limited] based on a detection result of said detector.

13. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus according to claim 1[, 9 or 10], wherein said image receiver comprises one of a radiographic film, a photostimulable phosphor sheet and a digital radiographic detector.

14. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus[,] comprising:

a top plate[, movable in a direction,] for supporting a subject and being  
movable in a direction;

an image receiver for receiving a radiographic image of the subject;

a moving mechanism for varying a position relative to said top plate and/or  
posture of said image receiver; [and]

a detector for detecting the position and/or posture of said image receiver;  
and

a limiting [means] unit for limiting [the] movement of said top plate in a  
[predetermined] direction [in accordance with the position of said image receiver relative  
to said top plate and/or the posture of said image receiver] based on a detection result of  
said detector.

16. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus according to claim 14, wherein  
said moving mechanism guides movement of said image receiver in a horizontal direction  
between a first position under said top plate and a second position at a side of said top  
plate, and also guides switching of said image receiver, at said second position, between a  
horizontal posture and a vertical posture.

17. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus according to claim 16, wherein [the horizontal direction is a direction of a shorter side of said top plate, and] said limiting [means] unit limits the movement of said top plate in the horizontal direction based on the posture of said image receiver [of the shorter side in accordance with the posture of said image receiver].

18. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus[,] comprising;  
a top plate[,] for supporting a subject and being movable in a direction[, for supporting a subject];  
an image receiver for receiving a radiographic image of the subject;  
a moving mechanism for varying a [position relative to said top plate and/or] posture of said image receiver; [and]  
a detector for detecting the position of said top plate; and  
a limiting [means] unit for limiting change in the posture of said image receiver based on a detection result of said detector [in accordance with a position of said top plate].

20. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said moving mechanism guides movement of said image receiver in a horizontal direction between a first position under said top plate and a second position at a side of said top plate

and also guides switching of said image receiver, at [said] the second position, between a horizontal posture and a vertical posture.

21. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus according to claim [18] 20, wherein said limiting [means] unit limits the change in the posture of said image receiver from horizontal to vertical.

22. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus[, ] comprising;  
a top plate[, ] for supporting a subject and being movable in a horizontal direction[, for supporting a subject];  
an image receiver for receiving a radiographic image of the subject;  
a moving mechanism for varying a [position in the horizontal direction relative to said top plate and a] posture of said image receiver; [and]  
a first detector for detecting a posture of said image receiver;  
a second detector for detecting a position of said top plate in the direction;  
and  
a limiting [means] unit adapted for limiting movement of said top plate in the [horizontal] direction based on detection result of said first and second detectors [in accordance with the posture of said image receiver and position of said top plate].



24. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said moving mechanism guides movement of said image receiver in [the] a horizontal direction between a first position under said top plate and a second position at a side of said top plate, and also guides switching of said image receiver, at [said] the second position, between a horizontal posture and a vertical posture.

25. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus according to claim 22, wherein [the horizontal direction is a direction of a shorter side of said top plate, and] said limiting [means] unit limits the movement of said top plate in the direction [of the shorter side when] in a case that said top plate is positioned within a predetermined range in the direction [of the shorter side].

26. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus[, ] comprising:  
a top plate[, ] for supporting a subject and being movable in a horizontal direction[, for supporting a subject];  
an image receiver for receiving a radiographic image of the subject;  
a moving mechanism for varying a position in the horizontal direction relative to said top plate and posture of said image receiver; and

a shock absorbing member [positioned between said top plate and said image receiver] for avoiding direct collision [therebetween, in a case in which] of said top plate [is moved toward] and said image receiver[, not being in a horizontal posture, in the horizontal direction or in a case in which the posture of said image receiver is changed from a horizontal posture while said top plate is positioned within a predetermined range in the horizontal direction].

27. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus[, ] comprising:

a top plate[, ] for supporting a subject and being movable in a horizontal direction[, for supporting a subject];

an image receiver for receiving a radiographic image of the subject; and

a moving mechanism for varying a position in the horizontal direction relative to said top plate and posture of said image receiver;

wherein said moving mechanism [comprises] includes a locking mechanism for preventing said image receiver from moving in the horizontal direction in a case that [when] said top plate is positioned within a predetermined range in the horizontal direction and said image receiver is not in a horizontal posture.